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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

VOL. 33

NOVEMBER 29, 1918

No. 48

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

PREVALENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Influenza has ceased to be epidemic in many parts of the country. From some points recrudescences have been reported. Telegraphic reports in regard to the prevalence of influenza received by the Public Health Service from State health officers and Collaborating Epidemiologists of the Service for the week ended November 23 will be found in the Current State Summaries, page 2118. Reports of cases occurring in extra-cantonment zones and tables of the duration of the epidemic and of its severity in large cities will be found under the heading "Influenza," page 2123.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES OF POLIOMYELITIS.

A report of epidemiologic studies of poliomyelitis made during 1916 has recently been published by the Public Health Service.¹ The report covers a general statistical and epidemiologic study of the epidemic in New York City and the northeastern United States, intensive studies of the epidemics in the borough of Richmond, in certain counties in New Jersey, in Hartford County, Conn., and of some scattered cases in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and certain miscellaneous studies. Present knowledge in regard to the epidemiology of poliomyelitis is summarized.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

In a bulletin² just published by the Public Health Service a study of 6,078 cases of infectious diseases among immigrant children is reported. The study related especially to cross infection and hospital management.

"Opinion in regard to the proper management of contagious diseases treated in hospitals," the author states in the introduction, "has

¹ "Epidemiologic Studies of Poliomyelitis in New York City and the Northeastern United States during the year 1916." By C. H. Lavinder, A. W. Freeman, and W. H. Frost. Public Health Bulletin No. 91. 310 pp.; 67 illustrations.

² Public Health Bulletin No. 95, "Infectious Diseases of Children, a Study of 6,078 Cases among Immigrants, with Special Reference to Cross Infection and Hospital Management." By J. G. Wilson.

undergone much change within the past decade. The old idea that infection occurs through the air and that a distinct quarantine must be drawn between wards and buildings containing patients with different contagious diseases has been gradually abandoned. This bulletin tries to show how in the Ellis Island Hospital the new methods have worked out in practice and suggests changes which will result in additional improvements."

The main conclusion reached as a result of the study is the practicability of treating contagious and noncontagious diseases in the same hospital and with the same nursing force. "While it is not advisable," the bulletin states, "to use the same open wards for both classes of cases, it has, nevertheless, been demonstrated that if these wards are cut up into small cubicles and the proper nursing technique enforced there is practically no danger of cross infection."

MALARIA CONTROL ON ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

The annual medical report of the island of Cyprus for 1917 summarizes the antimalaria campaign which has been conducted on that island since 1913 and the results obtained. The number of cases of malaria treated was reduced from 10,035 in 1912 to 2,709 in 1917 and the percentage of enlarged spleens in school children was reduced from 17.2 per cent in 1913 to 6 in 1917. The antimalaria work, as summarized in this report, has consisted of cleaning and improving drains and streams; making new drains; filling in, screening, or covering wells; stocking wells with fish; filling in or draining pools; cutting and removing of grass. Drugs were used to some extent.

Shortly after the occupation of the island by the British in 1878, all troops except a small garrison were withdrawn because of the prevalence of malaria. During the present war, however, the island has been used for troops and a camp for prisoners of war has been established. The medical officer in charge reports no primary cases among prisoners and a rate among the troops of only 0.4 per cent.

The reduction in the prevalence of the disease is shown in the figures for each year, giving the total cases treated, according to the returns of the medical officers, and the percentage of enlarged spleens found on examination of school children each fall by the medical officers.

Year.	Total cases treated.	Spleen rate.	Year.	Total cases treated.	Spleen rate.
		<i>Per cent.</i>			<i>Per cent.</i>
1912.....	10,035		1915.....	4,530	11.5
1913.....	7,342	17.2	1916.....	3,752	7.6
1914.....	6,622	15.3	1917.....	2,709	6.0